

TT No. 169: Keith Aslan - Sat 20th February 2010; **Vallance** v Hounslow Wanderers; Middlesex County League Prem Division; Kick-off: 13.33; Score: 0 - 2; Attendance: 40 (1 home 1 away 38 neutral).

With Vallance playing a one-off home match at Victoria Park, and a morning "Hop" game taking place just over a mile away (Sporting Hackney 4 Arsenal St Johns 3 - absolutely brilliant game) there was always going to be a fair representation of the hopping fraternity at this one.

Having been forewarned of the impending invasion, Mr. Vallance had printed extra progs, and everyone would have got one if a minority of the earlier arrivals had limited themselves to one copy. The few (very few) who bought 3 or 4 should hang their heads in shame when some people didn't get one.

It's probably stretching a point to call this a new ground, just one of a number of pitches in the northern corner of the very large, and very pleasant Victoria Park. Vallance had put down the pole holders, but the poles and the ropes that should accompany them were nowhere to be seen, I trust the league will not look too harshly at this oversight.

It has to be said that compared to the morning's entertainment, this wasn't very good. The most startling aspect of the match was why Vallance have yet to win a game this season. For a most of the game they matched their championship chasing opponents and in the context of a poor game, they didn't look too bad at all. If there is any justice in football, the league will deduct points from Hounslow Wanderers for wearing a nausea-inducing purple kit. There is no room for this sort of thing at any level of football.

The programme was a cracker, photocopied with a homemade look to it (and none the worse for that). It contained a quiz without the answers, and an "Order of Events" like you get in Cup Final programmes, although the "events" at Victoria Park were somewhat more prosaic. "12.00 Ground opens - 12.50 Players warm up - 13.15 Teams enter the pitch - 13.30 kick off" etc. Whoever writes for the programme has a glorious turn of phrase "After the recent poor form of Vallance Football Club, fans are greatly frustrated with the players and the manager and are showing huge unrest" Great stuff. No sign of any huge unrest from the fans today. No sign of any fans, frustrated or otherwise.

The club takes its name from the road in which it was formed, although Vallance Road is probably more (in)famous as the birthplace of the Krays. Whenever I see West Ham United describe themselves as a family club, I always assume it was this family they use as a template.

I wish Vallance well for the rest of the season, they deserve more than the solitary point so far accrued, as for Hounslow Wanderers, I can only start to take them seriously as championship contenders when they get a new kit!

